A DISCOVRSE IN Derision of the Teaching in Free-Schooles, and other common Schooles.

The Speakers on the One side are;

CUFF-HM,
FLEA-BUTTOCK, } Masters of Free-Schooles.
TVVIG-TAIL,
SIMON DOTTERIL, a Citizen.
HUMPHRY GOOSE, a Country Gentlemen.

And on the other side;

ENTRAPILUS, a Traveller.
THOMAS GRANTHAM, Professor of the Greek and Latin Tongues, in *London*.

July 15 *Simon Dotterill.* 1644.

SAve you Master Grantham, I am glad to see you; but should be gladder if you would not differ so much in your way of Teaching, from these grave Schole-masters: Gentlemen I tell you all the Disputes are hot on both sides, not onely here in London, but elsewhere.

Entrapilus. Sir, there is no hope of reconciliation, so

long as so many Knaves and Fooles are interested in the cause.

Dotteril, Syr, me thinks a little wit might easily disprove Master Granthams way.

Entrapilus. Sir, then you are as fit a man as can be for that purpose. I pray you let us hear what you can say?

Dotteril. Syr, the way of learning without Booke, is an ancient approved way; I remember thirty years ago, I was whipt thrice for the three degrees of comparison, because I could not say them without Book: once for every degree.

Humphry Goose. And I remember when I went to Schoole, the Usher tyed a knot of a Rush for every word I mist, but I mist so many words, that four or five rushes was not enough for me; but then at last I got a trick to write my Lesson on the back side of my Book, and so I could say it, although my Masters face was many times towards me.

Entrapilus. Master *Dotteril*, I could prove that Grammer it selfe is not the ancient way of learning a Language; much lesse the learning of it word by word without Book: for the Inventors of the Grammer (you will grant) had the Langnage before the Art. But I will speak more plainly to you. The Grammers which were before *Lilly*, (a) were some of them almost as big as a Church Bible: (if you take out the *Apocrypha* and *Common-Prayer*.) Now to learne these word by word without Book, was a taske passing the patience of an Asse. Upon this *Erasmus* concludeth (*b*) *That Grammer it self is enough to make a man spend his whole life in Tortures*.

(a) *Viz.* Priscianus, Tertellius, Lanciolotus, Nicolaus Perellus, Georgius Valla, Aldus Romanus, Nestor Stoa, Eristlinus.

(*b*) Moriæ Encomio.

Dotteril. Good Master Cuffum help me out, I am absolutely gravelled.

Cuffum. I say, and will maintain, that learning the Grammer word by word without Book, is ancient and approved.

Grantham. What is your reason Sir?

Cuffum. What is your reason to the contrary?

Entrapilus. Sir, if you should dispute so in an University,

you

you would be hiſſed at: He asketh you to prove what you ſay, and you bid him prove the contrary: The task lyes on you to ſhow a reaſon for what you ſay, but there is no more to be expected from an *Aſs in præſenti*.

Cuffum. Syr, I can prove it hath been practiſed, and commanded in the Preface to the Reader before the Grammer.

Entrapiles. Sir, you were too much cuffed and dulled at Schoole, to attain to any Logick; There are many things practiſed, that are not lawfull: I therefore deny your ſequell. And in that Preface, there is not a word of saying word by word without Book, and there was never any command by Authority, laid on the common Schooles for it.

Grantham. There is in that Treatiſe much againſt your ſelves; As, that *a Boy ſhould not learn by Rote, but by Reaſon:* But you teach firſt all the Grammer by Rote, and after cuffe the underſtanding of it into him. There are alſo theſe very words, which are much againſt you: *That Boyes ſhould not learn the Rules orderly as they lye in the Syntaxe, but ſome little ſentence ſhould be given them; and if there fall any neceſſary rule of the Syntaxe to be known, then to learn it as the occaſion of the ſentence giveth cauſe that day.* But you teach all word by word without Book; ſo that a Boy is confounded with a multitude of Rules, and knowes nothing diſtinctly, till he hath been cuffed and whipt ſeven yeares together: So that Doctor *Web* ſaith, *they are ſometimes twenty, ſometimes thirty, before they go to the Vniverſity.* I heard ſome say of good credit, they knew one who confeſſed he was ſeven and thirty yeares of age, before he came from Schoole to their Colledge.

See the Preface to the Reader before the Grammer.

Twigtail. What way then do you say is the beſt?

Grantham. Sir, there are three things moſt neceſſary in a Language; the words, the Stile, the Rules: For the words, a Boy may eaſily learn a thouſand words in ten dayes; that is, a hundred words a day, ſuppoſe a man allow an houre for twenty words, in five houres he learneth a hundred words. I have taught ſome that have learned a hundred words in an houre: but I do not mean after the ſilly ſuſtian way of

learning in the common Schooles, to say them all in order by rote like a Parrot, but let him have an hundred Englisſh words, and a hundred Latin words printed or writ, he ſhall tell you Latin for any Englisſh word, and this is the learning I mean.

Eutrapilus. Now Mr. *Twigtail*, and Mr. *Flea-buttock*, you are both bound in conſcience to conceive, that he that underſtands one thouſand, muſt needs underſtand many thouſands more: for many derivatives, compounds, decompounds, are underſtood by the help of the ſimples, and he that underſtands thus much, will underſtand moſt Authors he reads.

Dotteril. But how ſhall they do for a ſtile?

Eutrap. M. *Dotteril* I will ſhow you by an example: There is a certain bird which is a fool, or a fowl, or a fooliſh fowl, called a *Dotteril*, your own name-ſake: this bird if you ſee him thruſt out his right wing, thruſt you out your right arm, if he thruſts out his left leg, thruſt you out yours, if he thruſts out his neck, thruſt you out yours, and thus by imitating of him, you will come ſo neare till you take him up in your hand. And ſo in an Author, where you ſee him place his adjective adverb, or conjunction, do you ſo to: and by this imitation, you will catch the ſtrain of your Author, and come to a great perfection. If you imitate but ſix leaves in a tranſlation, which you may do in two dayes, then you may come near the ſtrain of the Author.

Twig-tail. In this thing I am ſomething ſatisfied.

Flea-buttock. But what do you ſay for the Rules?

Grantham. The rules I would teach thus. Firſt, conſider there are 8. parts of Speech, for the 4. that are undeclined, I bid my Scholler take very little care, becauſe they are not declined, nor varied, nor altered at all, as you find an Adverbe or a Conjunction in one place, ſo you finde him every where. Of the other 4. I bid him take care but of two, that is a Noun, and a Verb, for a Pronoun is much like to a Noun, know one, know the other: a Participle that takes part both of a noun and a Verb: both theſe known, the participle is knowne. So here is but two things chiefly to be cared for, that is a Noun, and a Verb. But be ſure to underſtand the definition of every part of ſpeech, not word by word without Book, but the ſenſe of it.

Eutra-

Eutrapilus. How like you this Sir?

Twig-tail. Truly I finde some sense in this.

Eutrapilus. Truly or else I should have thought there had been little sense in you.

Fleabuttock. Master Grantham proceed I pray.

Grantham. Next I show him the Speciall Rules, and how he may know by them the Gender of any Noun: If a Noun vary from a speciall Rule, as *virus Pelagus*, I bid him look in the Neuters, and there he shall see the word excepted, or something that does imply that word: For others that are not under the speciall Rules, let him onely say the Gender followes the Sexe, as Males and Offices that belong to men, are Masculines; Females, Feminines. The same course I take in *As in præsenti.*

Eutrapilus. You have spoke to two or three at this present, I will assure you.

Grantham. Then I show the Concords, and with two or 3. lines annexr, he hath all things necessary for the Syntaxe.

Eutrapilus. Now Master *Cuffum*, you must conceive he does not show them the Concords and English rules as they are in the Grammer, that is before the Genders and the Verbs, as you do, for that is non-sence: for how can a Boy conceive an Adjective to agree with his Substantive in case, Gender, and number, when he hath read nothing of the Genders of Nounes, and can show no rule for it.

Grantham. And all this concerning Concords, Nounes, and Verbs, I show in an houre.

Cuffum. Now brother Schol-masters, mark something to laugh at; he teacheth a thousand words in ten dayes; a file in two dayes, Genders of Nounes, Conjugations of Verbs all in an houre, so reckon all together, in twelve dayes and an hour, he teaches to understand much of the Latin tongue.

Eutrapilus. Yes Sir that he doth, to such as you have not too much cuffed, and dulled, and twig'd, and fleaed.

Grantham. M. *Cuffum* you are too hot, if you cannot deny any of these several, then they are true altogether, you grant a man may learn a hundred words a day, that way I speak on?

Cuffum. That I grant.

Grantham. You will grant a man may imitate ſixe leaves in two dayes.

Cuffum. I will not differ with you for that neither.

Grantham. Then you will grant the Rules may be learned as I have expreſſed?

Cuffum. Truly, that I grant too, onely this makes me averſe; although I conceive ſuch a thing poſſible to be done, yet becauſe I never ſaw it done, I am ſomething incredulous.

Grantham. Sir I can bring you ſufficient proofe of this, by Earles, Lords, Collonels, Knights, and Gentlemen, all Parliament men. Or take a ſhorter or a nearer way of triall. Amongſt many in my Schoole, I have one not above ten yeares of age, who hath been with me but a little above a year; This boy will conſter at the firſt ſight, preſently out of the Greek Teſtament, into good Latin: Perhaps ſome place may ſtagger him for the preſent, but he will ſoon overcome it. Give him a Latin Author, he ſhall conſter a Leafe or two with a little conſideration. And ſo in a Greek Author, Poet, or Orator in any Dialect. I teach him the Greek tongue, becauſe all the termes of Grammer, all the termes of Tropes and Figures in Rhetorick, are Greek: and knowing the Originall, he learnes that in a Moneth, he could not learne without it in two yeares.

Cuffum. Can he Accent a piece of Greek?

Grantham. Any Greek in any Dialect. Still I ſay he may be ſtaggered, but he will recover himſelfe preſently. This Boy underſtood not two lines in his Accidence when he came to me, and could not ſay one without Book, and now he is skilled in eleven Greek Grammers, and can prove any Greek or Latin verſe that is laid before him, and alſo make.

Eutrapilus. Now let me ſee any Boy that hath gone ten yeares to the Schoole, in any of your common Schooles, do ſo much: And Maſter *Granthams* Schollers playes ten times as much as any common Schooles.

Flea-buttock. Syr, we confeſſe it is very much, and you do well to ſhow a nearer way to Learning. In the Preface

to

to the Reader before the Grammer, there are these words; *If ove seeing by triall an easier and readier way then the common sort of Teachers, would say what he hath proved, and of the commodity allowed, that others not knowing the same, might by Experience prove the like.* See the Preface to the Reader, before the Grammer.

Grantham. Sir this way is best for common Schooles, for a Master may teach as well a hundred as one, because the way is by dictating, and runs all upon the tongue; if you have but one fine leading Boy, the rest will come easily on: unlesse they be very careless, and will not give their minds to it at all. As some will not unlesse they be cuffed, and whipped, which is against my way of teaching: for I have not had a Rod in my Schoole, many times for halfe a yeare together.

Eutrapilus. Master *Cuffum*, I will now make it appear to you, you are far out of the way in teaching. Mark *Mountaign* his words in his Essayes. *I must needs acknowledge that the Greek and Latin Tongues, are great Ornaments in a Gentleman, but they are purchased at an over high rate; I will tell you how they may be gotten easier, as it was tried in mine Education: So soon as my tongue was loosed, my Father had Schollers eminent for the Latin tongue, who spoke nothing but Latin to me: so that before I was sixe yeares of age, I spake pure Latin, full as readily as any Boy could his Mother tongue at that Age.* Lib. 1. cap. 25. Sir, take another instance. Let a Boy of seven or eight years of age, be sent out of England into France: he shall learn in a twelve moneth and lesse, to write and speak the French tongue readily, although he keep much company with English, reade many English Books, and write many English Letters home; and all this with pleasure and delight: Whereas many thousand who have gone to Free-Schooles two seven yeares, for they keep them longest, and there they rise up early and go to bed late, shed many a teare both before and behinde; and with all this Learning, which hath been put into them like a Glister, they cannot speak at all: and they cannot write a piece of ordinary Latin, unlesse they have Dictionaries and Phrase-Books, and many of them have as much Greek as their Masters, that is little,

little, or none at all. Whosoever considers this, must needs confesse we have not the knack of Teaching.

Grantham. The Common-wealth suffers much, in this tedious way of Teaching: Very few of our Gentry are Schollers, for at fourteen or fifteen the bloud growes hot, and they scorn a yoak, and then they are but punies, in the Common-Schooles, under the lowest or second Usher. Now if there be three Masters in a Schoole, three to one but a Boy miscarries under one: For they are of severall dispositions, and the Boy cannot agree with all. A Boy will learne under one Master, nor under another, suppose a Boy passe the first Usher, and second, yet the highest Master, with a great deal of paines, care, and diligence, may make him as errand a Dunce, as ever went to the University, or as ever came from thence.

Entrapilus. Sir, you may see more of this in a Book he writ; Called, *The Brain-Breakers Breaker:* And in his *Animadversions upon Cambdens Greek Grammer:* To be sold in *Little Brittain* over against the Clocke. Gentlemen, for the present, Farewell.

Grantham. Success to you Gentlemen.

Cuff. Twig-tail. Fleab. The like to you. Farewell.

FINIS.